

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa
San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo
County, California

HABS. Cal. 210

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of California #3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Henry F. Withey, District Officer
407 So. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California

MISSION SAN LUIS OBISPO DE TOLOSA
San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County, California

Owner: Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey and Fresno,
2820 Mariposa St. Fresno, California.

Date of Erection: Church completed in 1793.

Architect:

Builder: Indians under direction of the Padres of the Mission.

Present Condition: Of the original buildings of the Mission only a part of the church and a part of the Monastery remain. The church, restored and repaired, is in good condition and well cared for. The Monastery, at one time in a much ruined condition, has been repaired with wood construction. It is in a fair condition only, but improvements are being made at the present time.

Number of Stories: The church is of one story with a choir at south-east end of Nave. The Monastery is of one high story with a usable attic space over one portion.

Materials of construction: Foundation of field stone laid in adobe mortar. Walls of church are of sun dried adobe brick, plastered originally with adobe mortar and whitewashed, part of which remains. Repairs to plaster have been made with lime mortar. Present roof is of new construction placed in 1920 to take the place of one destroyed by fire. Roof is of tile, church floor of wood. The original narthex and belfry have been rebuilt within the last ten years, constructed of reinforced concrete and plastered. The chapel on the right of the Nave was an addition made in 1893 and built of concrete and brick.

The Monastery, or Padre quarters, has stone foundations. The walls of the older part are of adobe brick, adobe plastered and whitewashed both sides. A portion of the south-west end has walls of stone laid in lime mortar. In other parts the walls are of wood construction that take the place of original adobe ruins. Roof is of wood construction, originally tile covered, but now shingled. Floors are of wood, part cement.

Other existing records: Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M., "The Missions and Missionaries of California", and "Mission San Luis Obispo." H. H. Bancroft, "History of California". George Wharton James, "In and out of the California Missions": Rexford Newcomb. "The old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California."

MISSION SAN LUIS OBISPO, Continued

Additional Data: This Mission, founded in 1772, was the fifth in the chain of twenty-one. It was at this Mission in 1790 that tile roofing was first made and used in California.

Like the other Missions, there were besides the church and living quarters or Monastery, shops, storage rooms, etc. disposed about a quadrangle or patio. Little remains except the church and part of the Monastery. Originally the church is reported to have had an open roof construction, which sometime in recent years has been boarded up with a T & G wood ceiling placed beneath the same. A fire in 1920 destroyed the roof of the church. A new roof was at once constructed and tile covered. A new colonnade portico along the south-east side of the Monastery has, during the early months of the present year of 1937, been built to much the same design as the original.

James F. Wither
June 1, 1937

—HCO 7/14/37